

CATHETER WITH COMPOSITE STIFFENER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A catheter comprising an elongate tubular member having a proximal end,
a distal end, and a passageway defining a lumen extending between the proximal
and distal ends. The elongate tubular member comprises a relatively stiff
proximal section and a relatively flexible distal section. The proximal section
includes an inner tubular liner, a first stiffener comprising a metal alloy, and a
second stiffener comprising a non-metal alloy. The first and second stiffeners are
coaxially wound exterior to the proximal inner liner. The distal section includes a
10 distal inner tubular liner and the second stiffener coaxially wound exterior to the
distal inner liner. The first stiffener terminates before reaching the distal section.